



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS  
2000 NAVY PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20350-2000

IN REPLY REFER TO

OPNAVINST 3541.2A  
N86

07 JUN 1996

OPNAV INSTRUCTION 3541.2A

From: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: SHIPBOARD DAMAGE CONTROL/FIRE PROTECTION INITIATIVES

Ref: (a) CEB Decision Memorandum on Surface Ship Survivability  
29 May 85 (NOTAL)  
(b) NWP 62-1 (Rev.D) (NOTAL)  
(c) OPNAVINST 3541.1E  
(d) OPNAVINST 5430.48D

1. Purpose. To consolidate and reissue policy and assign responsibility for implementing shipboard damage control and fire protection (DC/FP) initiatives. This instruction is a substantial revision and should be reviewed in its entirety.
2. Cancellation. OPNAVINST 3541.2 and OPNAVINST 9600.1.
3. Background. Reference (a) approved funding and management alternatives in support of the Surface Ship Survivability (SSS) Program. This comprehensive effort addresses essential ship survivability measures to enhance the Navy's mission capability and operational effectiveness posture. Reference (b) establishes surface ship survivability doctrine and standardized damage control procedures. Reference (c) provides additional policy guidance relative to shipboard damage control training requirements.
4. Policy. In concert with the Chief of Naval Operations commitment to progress in platform survivability, including personnel protection, all afloat commands shall ensure the implementation of DC/FP initiatives designed to maintain the highest level of operational readiness and warfighting sustainability throughout the fleet. DC/FP concepts shall be developed and engineered into all surface ship platforms, shipboard interface systems and associated equipment, materials and supplies. For new starts, DC/FP considerations shall begin in the concept formulation phase and shall be maintained throughout the life of the platform. Overhaul and modernization programs shall employ the



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most rigorous and affordable application of DC/FP improvements on a priority basis in accordance with approved SSS plans.

5. Objectives. To implement coherent, responsive and centrally coordinated ship DC/FP initiatives which:

a. Preserve or restore watertight/fumetight integrity, stability, maneuverability and offensive sea power in the event of fire, explosion, flooding, grounding, collision or combat damages.

b. Reduce personnel casualties to the minimum and facilitate care of the injured.

c. Ensure state-of-the-art technologies are properly focused and continuously assessed to achieve early pay-off results.

d. Foster and encourage the transfer of DC/FP improvements across all warfare sponsors and fleet commands.

e. Reduce operational and maintenance workload associated with DC/FP in concert with Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) initiatives to reduce shipboard manning.

6. Applicability and Scope. DC/FP initiatives encompass the development, acquisition, deployment and support of material used to detect, isolate, suppress, extinguish and/or otherwise control shipboard fires resulting from accident, arson or combat operations. The goal is to prevent or minimize the broad degrading effects of damage on mission performance in both peacetime and hostile environments. DC/FP initiatives incorporate active survivability features, are essential components of major ship survivability system designs and complement existing passive fire safety measures.

7. Responsibilities

a. Director, Surface Warfare Division (N86), is the CNO'S Executive Agent for implementing Navy DC/FP initiatives. In addition to the responsibilities set forth in reference (d), and in conjunction with the Warfare Division Directors, N86 shall:

(1) Provide continuous coordination, direction, management focus and control to ensure the implementation of affordable DC/FP initiatives.

(2) Formulate policy, priorities and operationally relevant requirements consistent with the DC/FP goal.

(3) Sponsor Damage Control/Firefighting Working Group Forums to maintain and enhance communication/interactions with all Navy commands.

(4) Ensure planning, programming, staffing and budgeting to support the DC/FP objectives.

(5) Issue directives to ensure implementation, accountability and funding across all warfare/platform sponsors and fleet commands, including the need to address DC/FP considerations in requirements documents.

b. Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command, in support of and in coordination with N86 and other Warfare Division Directors as appropriate, shall:

(1) Provide comprehensive technical management, direction, coordination, oversight, assessment and focus for Navy DC/FP initiatives to ensure state-of-the-art awareness, transfer of technology, responsive test and evaluation capability and implementation of cost effective improvements. These functions shall include, but not be limited to the following items:

(a) Coordinate the technical and fiscal programs developed by other commands to ensure the DC/FP goal is achieved.

(b) Review and recommend prioritization of all DC/FP initiatives to ensure the greatest return for the Navy's investment.

(c) Exploit industrial independent research and development funding to support Navy DC/FP needs.

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(d) Ensure DC/FP technology transfer among all fleet commands.

(e) Provide DC/FP documentation as required.

(f) Develop appropriate methodologies and perform passive fire protection assessments of platform design features including arrangements, fire loading, ventilation, materials and fire zones for application into new design characteristics and top level requirements.

(g) Determine the desirability, feasibility, benefits and costs associated with implementing/developing passive fire protection improvements including but not limited to:

1. Clothing and fabrics.
2. Paints and coatings.
3. Power and signal cables.
4. Outfitting and furnishing.
5. Thermal/Acoustic insulation.
6. Packaging.
7. Hydraulic working fluids.
8. Fiber reinforced plastics and wood.
9. Passive countermeasures system materials.

(2) Establish and validate DC/FP procedures matched to actual and anticipated operational threats.

(3) In accordance with acquisition reform initiatives ensure all applicable specifications, standards, manuals and other directives are updated and/or developed as necessary to reflect DC/FP performance requirements.

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M. G. MULLEN  
By direction

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